

**SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**June 12, 2007**  
**Buck Ridge Plantation, Neeses, South Carolina**

**10:00 a.m. SPECIAL SESSION**

Members present: Alex Martin, Michael Brennan, Bill Cotty, Thomas DeLoach, Dennis Drew, Sen. Mike Fair, Sen. Wes Hayes, Buffy Murphy, Supt. Jim Rex, Neil Robinson, Kristi Woodall

Between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) participated in the State Board of Education (SBE) meeting to hear the report and recommendations on computer-based or computer-adaptive testing from Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). Members were provided a copy of the draft report; the final report is to be available on June 30, 2007.

**LUNCH**

EOC and SBE members continued with lunch and informal discussions

**1:00 p.m. REGULAR MEETING**

Members present: Alex Martin, Michael Brennan, Bill Cotty, Thomas DeLoach, Dennis Drew, Sen. Mike Fair, Sen. Wes Hayes, Buffy Murphy, Neil Robinson, Kristi Woodall

- I. Mr. Martin called the meeting to order.
- II. Mr. Martin asked for approval of the minutes as distributed. The minutes were approved.
- III. Subcommittee Reports
  - A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach reported on behalf of the subcommittee.
    - (1) Mr. DeLoach asked Mr. Potter to explain the action item on the use of end-of-course tests in school ratings. Mr. Potter reviewed the four recommendations addressing the use of end-of-course tests in middle school ratings, for courses taken in the virtual school, for courses taken as dual credit and for ninth grade only schools. The recommendations were approved as presented;
    - (2) On behalf of Mr. DeLoach, Dr. Horne explained the changes to the mathematics content standards as given first reading approval by the State Board of Education. These included changes to the multiplication facts to be learned at grade 3 and the use of decimal equivalents of common fractions. The standards were approved;
    - (3) Mr. DeLoach presented a status report on the English language arts (ELA) standards, with Dr. Horne responding to questions as appropriate. The State Department of Education is conducting a pilot of the ELA standards through the February 2008 and anticipates presenting standards to the SBE for first reading in March 2008. Members discussed ways in which to make their views known earlier and ways to enhance dialogue between the EOC and SBE within the process. Sen. Fair asked about the Administrative Procedures Act timelines and its alignment with the standards review process;
    - (4) Mr. DeLoach indicated that the subcommittee had reviewed the recommendations from the cyclical review of the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests and deferred action until a number of questions could be explored and the recommendations that may result from Supt. Rex' task forces heard.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Robinson reported on behalf of the subcommittee.

(1) Mr. Robinson outlined the proposal for a triennial evaluation plan and presented two recommendations (adoption of the plan and elimination of several reports currently required). The recommendations were approved as presented;

(2) Mr. Robinson drew members' attention to information on the FY2008 budget, as yet not concluded;

(3) Mr. Robinson presented the format by which information is to be collected and used in the development of the FY09 budget recommendations. The electronic format should reduce requirements on other agencies as well as provide consistent information;

(4) Mr. Robinson reviewed the report on the flexibility proviso, noting that only about 1 percent of state funds are transferred from one category to another.

C. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the subcommittee.

(1) He presented the detailed analysis of responses to the parent survey, noting general trends that persist over time;

(2) Mr. Martin outlined the FY08 communications plan and remarked on its consistency with the EOC's desire for greater impact.

(3) Mr. Martin introduced Trip DuBard, SBE member and president of The School Foundation (benefiting Florence One). Mr. DuBard outlined a fall event in which presidential candidates are asked to discuss their views on public education. He is requesting EOC endorsement and participation. Members deferred action and expressed that the activity may fall outside of the EOC mission but wished to convey their encouragement.

IV. Ad Hoc Committee on Computer-based, Computer Adaptive Testing. Mr. Martin asked for volunteers. Mr. Brennan and Mr. Robinson volunteered. Rep. Walker was nominated to serve with them on the ad hoc group. The group is to meet with the Advisory Panel and to offer recommendations at the August EOC meeting.

V. General Discussion: Members expressed that the joint meeting with the SBE had gone well and that the two groups should meet jointly at least once or twice a year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.